

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The abstract has been amended as required in the Office Action.

The specification has been amended to include section headings. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendments.

Claims 1-12 have been amended to omit reference characters and all elements are now in non-means-plus-function language. Also, claim 5 has been amended to overcome the objection thereto. The amendments are considered to be non-narrowing; therefore, no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Claim 14 has been newly added to recite features of claim 5 and depend from claim 2.

Claims 1-13 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Bauer (US 5,951,489). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites a control button that acts to bring two slides sequentially, one after the other, to a rearward position of a sampling device. Bauer fails to disclose this feature.

By contrast to the claimed feature, Bauer discloses two sliders alongside each other (i.e., arranged in parallel) and two push buttons for actuating the two parallel sliders (see Bauer Figs 1-1B and abstract). Therefore, Bauer's device has the same drawbacks as those described in the Background of the Related Art section of the present application (see specification pages 1 and 2).

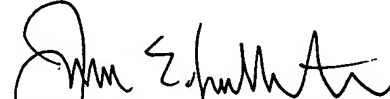
With the claimed device, two sliders are arranged in series and are actuated by only one control button, which provides sequential charging of a needle and a cannula. Moreover, the claimed device automatically fires both the charged needle and cannula upon the actuation of either one of two tumblers. Bauer's device provides sequential firing only through the successive manual operations of pressing a button 10 and then another button 11 (see Bauer Figs. 1-1B and abstract).

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Bauer does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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